

## ON THE REVIEWER'S TABLE

## "Rose of Old Harpeth."

By Maria Thompson Dawless. Illustrated by W. B. King. The Bobbs-Merrill Company, of Indianapolis, Ind. \$1.25.

A book that is a worthy successor to "Miss Selma Lee," and breathes out the sentiment of that part of the Southern country which it typifies. Old Harpeth means Harpeth Valley, in Middle Tennessee, with Providence Road winding near, and Rose Mary, a real "Rose of the World," living at the Briars, the home of her people, the Alloways, near the little village of Sweetbriar.

It is not because Rose Mary, taking the burden of sorrow and disgrace from her old uncle's shoulders, sacrifices all the ambitions born of her college career to keep the old home sweet and happy, but it is because of her mother's love, and the love of her mother, that she is so lovable. She mothers the old and helpless members of her own family with infinite tenderness and patience, humoring all their little whims and fancies and brightening all the way down which their tottering footsteps follow toward the grave.

She mothers all the village children that come to her for love and care, beginning with the orphan boy whom she took for her own when his father and his mother had forsaken him.

Her mother, the stranger under her roof, and restores his faith in himself and humanity. In the little remote community where she lives, Rose Mary is an inspiration to the wives, an object lesson to the husbands, being equally beloved by both.

She has her own troubles, but she looks above and beyond them, and finally they disappear under the steady shining of her sun of happiness. Her story is fragrant with the perfume of sweet thoughts and kind words. The people around her are not afraid to make religion a part of their daily life.

The beauty of this book is in the which grows up around Rose Mary, like a breath of fresh air to make life pleasant.

## "Pandora's Box."

By John Ames Mitchell, editor of Life. The Frederick A. Stokes Company, of New York. \$1.30 net.

Mr. Mitchell's newest book has a really interesting international plot. Of course, a plot is essential to a story, but there are a good many stories which are plot and nothing else. When that essential element is missing, the epigram and the rare remark of a snar, as in "Pandora's Box," we have a book which is not for the enjoyment of an idle hour, and then to be cast aside, but a permanent possession, to be a lasting place on our book shelves and to be returned to for future enjoyment.

Mr. Mitchell's delightful, gentle humor is familiar to the readers of the "Amos Judd" and "The Pines of Lory." It has a quality all its own, more to be classified with that of Charles Lamb than with that of Mark Twain, which is usually bright and humorous. Sometimes it cloaks a bit of satire which is none the less effective because it is conveyed in kindly tone. As "Pandora's Box" deals with a love affair between a young American and a young English woman of titled family, there are frequent opportunities for comment and repartee, in which the author's Americanism puts the laugh on British ignorance of our character and institutions, at the same time riding to the Briton's calm assumption of superiority to all the other peoples of the earth.

The characters the author draws are pictured with the power to direct the reader's sympathies in the right direction. This even extends to the sterling and lovable qualities of Bessie, who is only a dog, but by no means the least important creature in the book. In fact, the discerning reader will be likely to prefer him to some of the titled humans who help give the plot its grip. Mr. Mitchell has a habit of introducing a touch of the mystic into the influence of heredity, but it works for the happiness of those for whom we are most concerned.

It is a frequent criticism that illustrators fail to carry out the ideas of authors, but there can be no such complaint in this case, as Mr. Mitchell is his own illustrator. His unique drawings aid instead of distract the vision of the reader, so that they are a help in the way of supplying atmosphere. All in all, "Pandora's Box" is a mighty pleasant addition to the list of best works by American authors.

## "The Iron Woman."

By Margaret Deland. Harper & Brothers, of New York.

Readers of "The Awakening of Helena Richie" will find in "The Iron Woman" two principal characters taken from the former book. In comparing the two books it is most interesting to note the larger design of "The Iron Woman," which is more of a life and a surer purpose working from the first line to its culminating situation.

The little city of Mercer is dominated by the iron works, owned and operated by Sarah Maitland, a woman of rude force and blundering greatness of heart. Almost the whole novel in itself is the story of the iron woman's thwarted mother-love, of how she constantly spoils the son who never ceases to chafe from her ugliness, of her inevitable disappointment and final heart-breaking of the issue.

The dramatic elements are all present in the first scene, where we are introduced as children Blair Maitland and his sister, Nannie, David Richie and Elizabeth Ferguson, the niece of Sarah Maitland's dear but kind-hearted foreman. There is a lyrical note as well as a great deal of humor and shrewdness in Mrs. Deland's handling of the group in this childhood phase and later as they grow up to be young men and

women. The tenderness and passion of youth, its foolish obstinacy and generous impulsiveness are portrayed with truthful idealism. The first part of Blair's childish engagement to Elizabeth, David's boyish jealousy, are matters for laughter and tears, and the reader's appreciation of the children's eagerness and the pathos of their experiences in later life. Elizabeth is already the heroine of the romance, to be, and she is wholly lovable despite the ungovernable rages to which she is subject.

Later, when she and David fall in love, we see in their engagement a beautiful and instinctive mating, while the quarrel that separates them is the entirely natural result of their difference of temperament. Then when Blair, always eagerly desirous of Elizabeth, basely takes advantage of her furious state of mind and induces her to run away and marry him, the crash that follows is the inevitable outcome of the forces of character at work. Sarah Maitland is here the commanding figure. "God," prays the Iron Woman, in one of her greatest moments, "punish him—punish me! It's all my fault." Elizabeth's bitter repentance, her secret flight to David, and the great scene in which Helena Richie, to save them from ultimate shame and sorrow, makes her great sacrifice and tells David her secret—these are the final phases of a drama which is increasingly strong and convincing because its foundations have been laid deep in human nature.

From beginning to end "The Iron Woman" represents the wholly adequate and artistic working out of a great conception.

"The Fruitful Vine."

By Robert Hichens. The Frederick A. Stokes Co., of New York. \$1.40 net.

A beautiful book, one so subtle in its tone, so consistent in its purpose, that ordinary judgment and standards hesitate in confusion in passing sentence upon it.

Rome, the Eternal City, with all of its history, its traditions, its associations, its mysteries, makes an appropriate background for such a novel as "The Fruitful Vine." The fact that as a group of the principal characters in the book are English only serves to bring out more clearly the knowledge possessed by Robert Hichens of the Italian nature and society, and the skill which belongs to his subtle touch as to his manner of writing.

Ordinarily there would be no difficulty in classifying this novel as a novel. It would be marked "Fiction," and tabored in libraries where young and unworried people come for diversion and entertainment. That a woman should be moved to do a wrong thing, a womanhood through a longing to remove what she considered a blot from the love she most coveted, is not a thing that can be justified or defended.

But Robert Hichens has assimilated something of Oriental fatalism that is felt in every line he writes. It is this fatalism which makes "The Fruitful Vine" a novel of the most powerful kind. And so, in "The Fruitful Vine," the image of the lonely woman, looking within the full and happy home of another, as the Peri may have glimpsed Paradise, seems like a woman followed by the shadow of Fate, driven onward by a force which hurries and hurls her head on, which never brings her peace or happiness.

The mere story is not the book. The book not only probes beneath the surface of a fashionable social story, giving an idea of the depths beneath it, but it lays its hand upon the secret problems of life, the problems of heart, upon the happiness or unhappiness of marriage and the causes of its failure.

One of the most painful impressions it leaves is the sense of a lifelong repression in its stifling a woman's natural impulses, causing her to act a part and to never be able to speak her heart out to her husband, who should have given her something instead of demanding everything from her. Instead of oppressing her constantly with the sense of his disappointment at his own freedom and his necessity to seek what he lacks in a far, brighter home atmosphere than his own.

"The Fruitful Vine" is nearer akin to "The Garden of Allah" than anything Mr. Hichens has written since. It is certainly a remarkable and powerful book in more ways than one, and will probably arouse much comment and discussion.

"Stories That End Well."

By Octave Thanet. The Bobbs-Merrill Co., of Indianapolis, Ind.

Anything from the pen of Octave Thanet is sure to possess interest and value. More than this must be said, for the volume under consideration, so happily named "Stories That End Well." This fact gives to Octave Thanet's new book a unique and delightful quality. Eleven stories are offered for the reader's entertainment, and each of the eleven plots works out to a happy conclusion that is at once "right" and inevitable.

So the book is an unusually safe one as a companion for a journey, and as a gift for a friend, for nobody could possibly have the blues about it, at least. The vital appeal which these stories make springs from their deft handling of living, present-day social conditions, their range within this field, their range within the field of church quarrel among Southern churches in "Through the Terrors of the Law"—probably the best story in the book—to the realm of English aristocracy, in "The Little Lonely Girl," which is an engaging story of a young love, to the "Old Parisian," a fine story of hero worship in politics, and "The Object of the Federation," in which the reader moves among well-bred and well-to-do clubwomen, an infallible refinement of touch and high purpose mark all his stories. The plot in every case is characterized by the simplicity of nature and by skillful handling. The author creates both atmosphere and characters without waste of words—a virtue which in short story writing cannot be too highly praised.

"The Boss of Wind River."

By A. M. Chisholm. Doubleday, Page and Co., of Garden City, N. Y.

Mr. Chisholm is an author is called the portrayer of the great Northwest. All his life the author of "The Boss of Wind River" has loved the outdoors. A Canadian born, he was educated at the Toronto University. He practiced law in his native Province of Ontario for a time, but after two or three years took charge of the Western branch of a Toronto trust company in Saskatchewan. After a few years he moved to the shores of Lake

Windermere, at the head of the Columbia River, where he still makes his home.

But logging camps and sawmills just came naturally to him—like writing. When a very young boy Mr. Chisholm lived on the Bruce Peninsula of Lake Huron. He was allowed to spend the summers at his father's lumber camps, and from the great-hearted lumberjacks he learned many a lesson in self-reliance and woodcraft that later came useful to him.

So it is that he is able to present the story of Wind River, the life of a New England village and typical New England farm people. It is the first time she has brought her sharp pen to the interpretation of this phase of American life, or any like it, and in recounting the love story of Ethan Frome, a farmer, and his wife's cousin, Mattie Silver, she shows a different conception of that life from the many other writers who have treated it. Her scenes and her characters are as sharply outlined as New England pine against New England snows. Her knowledge of the life of the people of her tale, is simple and clear-cut. "Ethan Frome" is in several ways the most surprising and convincing sign of her genius. The story and all the people in it are unforgettable.

BOOK NOTES.

A new book by J. M. Barrie will be published within a week or two by the Scribners. Written with all the indescribable charm that has endeared it to so many thousands, it tells the story of Wendy, and her two brothers, how they flew to the "Never-Never Land" with Tinker Bell, the fairy, and the boy who never grew up, of the adventures that there befell with wolves, and redskins and pirates; of the building of Wendy's house and the delight of all the little boys, who now had a mother at last.

In short, it is the narrative of the play, "Peter Pan," heightened and embroidered with many new fantasies, and containing ever so much that no play could ever contain of Barrie's humor and feeling in comment and description. The book is much farther than did the play, too, and ends far more satisfactorily for both Peter and the reader. But the main thing is that here in permanent form with in the reach of every one, always, is the adorable Peter to crow at his own prowess, and the mischievous Tinker Bell, and the terrible Captain Hook, with his crocodile Nemesis, and the marvelous Nurse Nana.

These, and all the other characters of "Peter Pan" are pictured with remarkable sympathy and spirit by the English illustrator, F. D. Bedford. His twelve full-page illustrations somewhat recall the work of Arthur Rackham, though less fantastic, and more delicately fanciful.

Maurice Hewlett has come into his own again. With "The Song of Renny," he returns to that kingdom of romance which he and all living men is most fit to rule. And many thousands who acknowledge his sovereignty there, even those who throw off their allegiance when he journeyed into modern fields, will rejoice to follow him back into the brave world he opens for us with his strong men and his beautiful women.

A true romance of the ages is "The Song of Renny," abounding in adventure, gorgeous in color, alive with the vigorous spirit of "Richard Yea and Nay" and "The Forest Lovers." Not since the latter came from the press has a novel appeared to rival it in the field of pure romance. Prosper Le Gai rides gallantly through his pages, a slender shrewd and powerful, and many of the scenes of its most striking situations had their place in the novel of which he was hero.

October publications of Small, Maynard & Co. include "The Marriage Portion: The Mystery of a Man," by John Magruder, the Young Gene Hunters, or the Mystery of the Hunted Camp, a story for boys, by Hugh Pendexter; "The Librarian at Play," by Edmund Lester Pearson, and "Literary Pilgrimages of a Naturalist," by Winthrop Packard.

The outbreak of the war between Turkey and Italy brings the land of the Sultan very prominently before the public and makes it evident how very few popular books on modern Turkey there are to be had. There are few writers who understand modern Turkey, whose recent book on the subject, "Haremlik," has established a permanent place for itself. Her new book, "In the Shadow of Islam," was published most opportunely by Houghton-Mifflin Company this week, and gives a vivid, first-hand picture of the complicated and picturesque political situation in Turkey to-day, while telling at the same time the love story of a young American girl and a leader in the Young Turk movement. Demetra Vaka was born in Constantinople and ran away to America to escape a forced marriage. She has returned, however, several times to her native city, and spent the past summer there. She is the wife of Kenneth Keneth-Brown, an American, with whom she collaborated in writing a recent novel called "The Duke's Price."

"The Power of Tolerance," by George Harvey, is announced for immediate publication by the Harpers. The book contains some two-score speeches and

## Sponsor for Sons of Veterans



MISS DOROTHY PLEASANT HARRISON, of Petersburg, Va., sponsor for the Sons of Confederate Veterans, Fourth Congressional District, at the Newport News reunion, October 17-19.

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Freeling Social News

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Freeling, Va., October 7.—Mrs. James C. Willis is at Conway, Buchanan county, in town.

McDonald Whitaker, of Clintwood, is in town.

Floyd Killen, of Osborns Gap, is at Freeling.

Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Branham, of Dantz, are in town.

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Philadelphia North American—Best sellers run away and hide when the author of "The Shepherd of the Hills" comes into the running. One Continuous Printing 500,000 Copies

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PUBLISHERS—THE BOOK SUPPLY COMPANY, CHICAGO

FOR SALE WHEREVER BOOKS ARE SOLD

timore, were the guests of their brother, J. A. Jeter and family, last week.

Misses Webb and Ethel Wilson, of Baltimore, Powhatan county, visited Miss Maggie Pierce here last week.

Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Pitts were in Richmond this week.

Mrs. L. L. Stone has returned to her home after a visit to relatives in Scottsville.

Rev. R. L. Wingfield, pastor of the Methodist Church here, assisted by Rev. Mr. James A. Turner, pastor of Dunn's Chapel Church, which was supported by the present church, began a series of services here on Sunday last, there being all-day services and dinner on the grounds on the opening day. There was preaching by Mr. Jeter throughout the week.

Mrs. Henry Street, who has been spending the summer here at her country home, was a visitor in Richmond last week.

Mrs. W. R. Root entertained the Bridge Club at the Arvonian Inn on Friday of last week. Some of those present were Mrs. John Randolph, Miss Rema Williams, Mrs. Ralph C. Root, Miss Thomas, Mrs. Perkins Glover, Miss Lottie, Mable and Miss W. Pitts. Refreshments were served.

Edmund W. Hubbard, Commonwealth's attorney for Buchanan county, was a visitor here from a visit to Niagara, Buffalo, Albany and Altoona, Pa.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Glnhart will attend the fair in Richmond, and then Mrs. Glnhart will go on to Chase City to spend two weeks with her sister, Mrs. Ivey Beasley.

Dr. A. F. Hargrave left two weeks ago for a vacation at his home in Harrogate, in the southwestern part of the State, after she had spent the summer with relatives in Nashville, Tenn. They will return to West Point on the 15th of October.

William O'Brien and wife, who came here in the spring, left on Monday for their old home, Cleveland, O., for a time.

Warren Topping has gone to George Washington College, Washington, D. C., to study.

The City Club has perfected its organization, with A. Elwood Corning, as president; W. L. Eastwood, first vice-president; H. B. Deane, second vice-president; H. B. Chandler, treasurer; Clyde Gouldman, club reporter.

Suffolk Social News

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Suffolk, Va., October 7.—The Driver Book Club was entertained Tuesday afternoon by Miss Regina Williamson. There was an interesting contest concerning the characteristics of members. Mrs. A. S. Sargeant got the prize. The hostess was assisted in refreshment serving by Miss Grace W. H. Williams.

The Suffolk Book Club had a meeting Friday afternoon with Mrs. Claude J. Deady.

The Junior Sewing Circle was reorganized Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Burwell Riddick, Jr. Among the members were Mrs. W. H. Riddick, Jr., Virginia Holland, Inez King, Ruth Brinkley, Inez Hendrick and Laura Leigh McLeod. There were refreshments.

Mr. and Mrs. John King have concluded a visit to friends in Rocky Mount, N. C.

Mrs. E. S. Boykin, Mrs. F. A. Holladay and Mrs. G. L. Bell this week attended the convention of Daughters of the Confederacy in Roanoke.

Miss Leah Jordan, of Suffolk, has been named as sponsor-in-chief for the Sons of Veterans at the reunion which will be held in Newport News, October 15-17.

Mrs. A. F. Parker and Miss Frances Parker, of El Paso, Tex., are in Suffolk on business, where they will be with the Ladies' Benevolent and Aid Society, which was entertained this week by Mrs. C. B. Duke and Mrs. Burwell Riddick, Jr.

Chase City Social News

(Special to The Times-Dispatch.)

Chase City, Va., October 7.—Milton G. Goode, of Dinwiddie county, was in town this week to attend the fair.

Frank H. Boynton, of Boynton, was here this week.

Mrs. George Lytle and son, George, were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. E. T. Hargrave, of Boynton, this week.

Mrs. Gilmer M. Bell, of Los Angeles, Cal., is the guest of Captain and Mrs. Thomas I. Jeffries this week.